

SPiRiT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

General Hancock's Order.

From the N. Y. Tribune. General Hancock, commander of the Military District embracing Louisiana and Texas, has revoked the order issued in August by General Sheridan, allowing all registered voters, irrespective of color, to be placed on the jury list, provided they possess the requisite qualifications of property and intelligence. General Hancock's order purports to be made with the view of conforming to the "Constitution" of the State of Louisiana, a thing which, if it had any existence, would supersede General Hancock's authority altogether. It is only because the President has proclaimed that Louisiana has no civil government, and, therefore, no Constitution, and Congress has reiterated the same statement, that General Hancock is not a usurper and a despot. If he wishes to issue an order that no negroes shall sit on juries, he is entitled to do so, manfully and honestly to do it openly. No State Constitution of Louisiana has any more authority over General Hancock than have the laws of France, to which the territory of Louisiana once belonged. Just as the President, while trampling under foot the Constitutions of all the Southern States, pretended to obey them in the single point of excluding black men from voting, so General Hancock, while holding his very office under a law which declares that the Southern States have no civil governments, and therefore no constitutions, yet appeals to the ghost of Louisiana's dead Constitution as if it were a living law.

The fact that many of the colored citizens of Louisiana have not sufficient intelligence to sit on juries, forms no justification for General Hancock's order. Color is not even an average test. Many of the white citizens of Louisiana are incompetent from want of intelligence, while many of the colored citizens are thoroughly competent. In New Orleans, there are large numbers of rich and intelligent colored men. Prior to the Rebellion, the free colored population of New Orleans averaged greater wealth in proportion to their numbers than the white. On the other hand, there are secluded parishes in Louisiana where the heathenism brought by the imported Africans centuries ago, and forgotten by their descendants, has spread to the ignorant whites. Had General Hancock based his order on a qualification either of property or intelligence, it might have been sustained. As it is, it looks as if he had entered the lists as a competitor with Andrew Johnson, Horatio Seymour, John T. Hoffman, and George B. McClellan for the next Presidential nomination.

Alabama Reconstructing.

From the N. Y. Tribune. The entire Alabama people have looked with natural interest to the Reconstruction Convention for Alabama, which has just closed its session at Montgomery. In the same room where, six years ago, the Confederate Rebellion in behalf of human bondage was organized into a pretended national government, were assembled one hundred representatives of that portion of the people of Alabama who love liberty and the Union, engaged in the first effort to construct a State government on the basis of the political equality of all men. Among them were sixteen legislators who were formerly slaves. The coincidence of place, between the inauguration of the Confederacy, whose corner-stone was slavery, and of the reconstruction policy, whose corner-stone is equality, is one of the most significant in history. The Convention was regarded by the conservative party of Alabama with an effort at contempt, which utterly failed, for want of anything in the proceedings of the Convention to excite the contempt even of its enemies. After it had been adopted, a sufficient policy to liberal towards the Rebels as to disarm all criticism, the only hope of the Conservatives was to force the question of color on the Convention in some embarrassing form. An ordinance requiring common carriers throughout the State to make no distinction or separation in the conveyance of black and white passengers was referred to the Judiciary Committee. An ordinance providing separate schools for white and colored children was voted down by 53 to 27, and instead thereof a section was adopted declaring that the Board of Education should provide one or more schools in each school district, at which all the children of the said district should attend free of charge. This leaves to the Board of Education in each district to decide whether black and white shall be educated in the same or different schools. A Bureau of Industrial Resources for collecting and publishing statistics calculated to promote the business of the State and encourage immigration has been proposed, and we believe adopted. The Convention, after a long and close struggle, finally voted to make all judicial offices in the State elective. An ordinance to prohibit marriages between white and black was defeated. The statement that General Pope had written letters urging the Convention to close its proceedings as soon as possible, if true, probably indicates only the anxiety of that officer for an early submission of its work to the people, so that the State may apply for admission to the Union during the present year. We have received the thirty-two first sections of the proposed Constitution, which is now complete. They are framed with care and ability, and contain nothing which any friend of Union and liberty will disapprove. On December 5 the Convention, by a vote of 67 yeas to 10 nays, adopted the Constitution, and by a vote of 69 yeas to 13 nays, provided for its submission to the people. The vote for and against the Constitution, and for the State and county officers and representatives in Congress, will be held on the 4th of February, 1868, under the orders of the Commanding-General of the district, all returns to be made to the President of the Convention, who will issue certificates of election to the candidates elected. The latter will enter on the duties of their offices as soon as the State shall be admitted into the Union. At the proposed election all adult male citizens, without distinction of color, will vote, except those who, having previously taken an official oath to support the Constitution of the United States, violated their oath by joining in the Rebellion. Even these may vote if they have aided in the reconstruction proposed by Congress, and accept the political equality of all men before the law. Seventeen members of the Convention voted and protested against the Constitution. If a majority of the registered electors of Alabama shall vote, and if a majority of those who vote shall vote for the Constitution thus adopted, there can be no doubt of the loyalty of the State government and Members of Congress who will be elected under it. There seems to be every prospect, therefore, that the State of Alabama will be

represented in the present Congress, and will be ready to vote at the next Presidential election. The Alabama Convention is entitled to the gratitude of the country for the earnestness and promptness it has displayed in the work of reconstruction, and we hope the Conventions in other Southern States will display equal business ability and despatch.

The Revenue and Retrenchment—Mr. Hooper's Plan.

From the N. Y. Times. Mr. Hooper's proposition to reduce the revenue from internal taxes to \$300,000,000, and to keep the aggregate of appropriations within that amount, may be too summary and sweeping to please timid financiers, but it will doubtless commend itself to the favor of those who hold that decisive measures are necessary to save the country from disaster. The approved form of proceeding might, perhaps, be somewhat different. We should have long and indefinite inquiries touching the possibilities of reduction under the respective forms of income and expenditure. There would be paring here, and modification there, and vague suggestions as to what might hereafter be attempted in other quarters. The Department estimates would be taken for granted, and these would absolutely regulate the taxation to be levied. Mr. Hooper reverses matters, and handles them more roughly. He asked Congress, in the first place, to affirm the sufficiency of a revenue from given sources not over \$300,000,000; then he insists that the Committee on Ways and Means shall shut down taxes until they yield, as calculated, \$300,000,000, and no more; and then he requires the Committee on Appropriations to diminish the expenditures until they be brought within what is thus to be made the entire available income for the year.

The adoption of this short and decisive mode of effecting reforms will dispose of many embarrassing questions. It cuts all red-tape bandages at the outset, and throws on the committees the duty of giving effect to the will of the House, instead of attempting to subordinate its policy to their plans. We can understand the shock which Mr. Hooper's bluntness will inflict upon the nervous gentlemen who are investigating internally, and in showing "how to do it." They will shrink with horror from a motion which fixes the maximum cost of carrying on the Government, and so directly saves the difference between that sum and the sum which the present system of taxation extracts from the people's pockets. The disease is desperate, however, and calls for promptitude and vigor in the application of remedies. And no remedy could well be more efficacious than one which, like Mr. Hooper's, provides for the reduction of taxation to a degree that will be beneficially felt by every interest.

To appreciate the extent of the reform which Mr. Hooper invites the House to inaugurate, it is only necessary to glance at the total revenue, realized and estimated, as given by the Secretary of the Treasury. These are the figures, derived from his report just published:—

Table with 2 columns: Year ending June 30, and Amount. Rows include 1867, 1868, 1869, and 1870.

Compared with the last fiscal year, Mr. Hooper's reduction would amount to upward of \$190,000,000, while for the current year it would be over \$117,000,000. These amounts respectively represent the excess of burdens beyond what we may hereafter be required to carry. The difference between the proposed aggregate and the aggregate computed by Mr. McCulloch for the next fiscal year—\$81,000,000—is the true measure of Mr. Hooper's reform. This is it which we may hope to see saved if a thorough system of retrenchment be enjoined upon those who are responsible for the estimates. To leave the subject to them, or to allow Mr. McCulloch to encumber current wants with anticipatory payments on account of the national debt, would be to lessen indefinitely the chances of retrenchment. In proposing thus arbitrarily to strike \$81,000,000 from Mr. McCulloch's estimated receipts for the next year, Mr. Hooper does but reflect the universal desire for a large and immediate reduction of taxes. No other subject possesses half the interest which attaches to this; on none else is public opinion so concentrated or inflexible. On the currency question differences of opinion creep in to moderate the energy with which legislators may address themselves to its solution; but on this question of taxation the people are agreed. They demand that routine shall not obstruct retrenchment, and that the reduction of taxes shall be large enough to afford quick and tangible relief. Whether measured by the enormous revenue of the last or the current year, the reduction to \$300,000,000 will oblige the Government to retrench. And no one can doubt that the saving begun by General Grant may be easily extended in other departments, until the entire expenditure of the Government be below the assigned \$300,000,000.

To those who hesitate in regard to Mr. Hooper's proposition, we would suggest the expediency of some very large reduction of taxes as the most effective means of stilling the movement for retrenchment. General Butler's agitation, having had no visible provocation, wears the air of simple mischief. Mr. Pendleton's, on the other hand, takes its rise in the prevailing impatience under oppressive taxation, and derives whatever strength it possesses from the unwillingness—perhaps we might say the inability—of the people to endure burdens which cripple and distress them. Excessive taxation is the evil to which Mr. Pendleton and others point in justification of popular discontent. By a tax of \$417,000,000, to \$300,000,000, or even \$417,000,000, to \$300,000,000, more than material relief will be afforded. The temptation to seek success by disturbing the contracts with the public creditor will be removed; the grievance of taxation will no longer be so enormous as to prompt rough-and-ready methods of escape; and the operations of the Government will necessarily be purged of the extravagance and corruption which now irritate and disgust the country. By all means, then, let Mr. Hooper's resolution, or something equivalent to it, be adopted. By no other course may help be so effectually rendered to the people; by none will the appeals of the repudiator be so surely or so happily counteracted.

Popular Education in Politics.

From the N. Y. Independent. Ignorance and knowledge, when predicated of the masses, are comparative. Every rational being has some knowledge; no one has all; few have enough. He who from year to year attends, through a good part of election day, the poll of his district, may well stand appalled at the aggregate of ignorance and vice which enters into the composition of that popular verdict which should always be rendered under the guidance of intelligence and virtue. If there ever was a time when the general well-being of this people was but slenderly, remotely affected by political action, that time

has evidently passed, not soon to return. Reconstruction, finance, currency, debt, taxation, etc., come home to the bedside and the table of rich and poor alike; taxes—national, state, local—swallow up a fifth, if not a fourth of the gains of capital, the earnings of labor; and the naturally reticent temper of the people, thus heavily burthened, professes no interest in financial quackery and villany. The two thousand five hundred millions of national debt, supplemented by at least five hundred millions of State and local debts, form an aggregate nearly equivalent to one-tenth of the property of our whole people. In other words, he who has property worth in all \$100,000,000 may consider it mortgaged to the extent of ten per cent. by public debts; and, including the current expenses of Government, he must expect to pay twenty per cent. of his earnings in taxes. This enormous percentage will be gradually reduced, but it will be protracted over future rebellions and wars. Property is rapidly augmenting, while debts are being reduced and paid off, so that the burden of taxation can hardly be half so great in 1877 as it is in 1867; but it must for a generation be heavy, and its pressure is aggravated by our past exemption. Paying taxes is never a delight, a luxury; but he who never felt them till yesterday will stagger under them to-day as he will not to-morrow or next day. And the ignorant poor man, who is freshly met at each turn by an excise or an impost, will be apt to lend an assenting ear to the proposals who proposes to rid him of the load by means which he pronounces thoroughly consistent with public faith and personal honor.

Those who the national debt overthrow, of course, hate that debt. It represents the men and means to which the Rebellion was forced to succumb. They cannot be expected to kiss with affection the rod that smote them. To "be hung and pay forty shillings" used to be proverbial for severity of punishment; to be put down by the strong arm, and taxed to defray the cost of the discipline, may be ever so just and wholesome, but its subjects will naturally be among the last to see and confess it.

So with reconstruction generally. That the recognition and establishment of the right of suffrage as justly and necessarily inhering in blacks as well as whites, is indispensable to any true and lasting restoration of the national authority in the States lately in revolt, is as clear as any proposition in mathematics. Slavery was the core of the Rebellion, and whoever this day believes that blacks have no rights which whites are bound to respect, is at heart a Rebel, whatever his flag or uniform. The Rebellion had no purpose, no purpose, no reasoning, that those forces were defeated, and whoever is to-day struggling to keep down the blacks, to deny their right of suffrage, and exclude them from all consideration or power, must feel that the late Confederacy was mainly intent on doing his work, and be moved to drop a tear to the memory of Stonewall Jackson.

A great majority of the people desire rights and just government; yet many often vote as though they did not. They virtually go to the polls blindfolded, and vote away their own and their country's well-being, because they are badly informed. They mean to be good citizens, but their ignorance prevents. And that ignorance is culpable in so far as the means of dispelling it are provided and accessible. There is not one voter in the United States who ought not regularly to take at least one newspaper; for even those who cannot read should qualify themselves to vote by each having a wife, child, or neighbor read aloud in his hearing. When a decent weekly can be had through a year for the price of a summer-day's work, no voter can be justified in doing without one. Through one of two channels—the newspaper or the groshop—every voter obtains some knowledge of public affairs. Some voters are familiar with both; but the great majority depend mainly on the one or the other. And nine-tenths of those who find the facts which underlie their political convictions and impel their political actions, mainly in the journals they take and pay for, vote the Republican ticket; while those who glean what they know of politics mainly from bar-room discussions are abundant and cheap, there are this day hundreds of thousands of voters who take no newspaper whatever.

The class who live by day-labor almost uniformly vote against us. Two-thirds of them work for Republicans whom they respect, but, reading no paper regularly, they cast their votes directly or indirectly, from the groshops. If half a million of these could be induced to take and read a good journal, there would be at least one hundred thousand more Republican votes in the ballot-boxes next November. And these votes would insure a Republican President and Congress.

I respectfully commend to the half million readers of the Independent their duty in the premises. Each of them might induce three to six voters to take some good Republican paper, if he would try. I do not insist that he shall so act in behalf of this or of any particular journal, but that he shall induce each voter within the sphere of his influence to take such Republican paper, whether it be classed as political or religious, as shall prove most acceptable. One will take a Baptist, Methodist, or temperance paper, who would not be induced to take another. Persuade each to take that which he may prefer; but let us try to begin the new year with half a million voters who took no paper in 1867 taking a good one for the momentous year 1868. Reader, look around you, and see how and where your duty in the premises shall be fully and faithfully accomplished!

HORACE GREELY.

A Word More About Impeachment.

From the N. Y. Nation. One meets constantly, both in literature, and philosophy, and politics, with men who are addicted to cramming into their heads ideas which are too big for their brains, and which, consequently, produce acute mental inflammation, showing itself in rant and bombast. Mr. Williams, if we may judge from the "report" on the impeachment of President Johnson which he has appended to the evidence collected by the Judiciary Committee, is one of these, and not the least remarkable. His symptoms are certainly as grave as those of any case which has recently come under our notice. Mr. Boutwell and the rest of the majority seem, too, to have been fully conversant of the unfortunate gentleman's condition, inasmuch as they were very careful to mention that it was he who wrote the report, being apparently unwilling to incur the suspicion of sharing in his malady. What has brought Mr. Williams to grief is the notion, which he makes frantic but unsuccessful efforts to develop, that in Andrew Johnson the majority of the Committee had got hold of a great historical character of the Stuart and Stafford type, whose abilities and wickedness made his possession of power dangerous to the State, and whose removal, therefore, was a duty as delicate as it was awful.

There is certainly some resemblance between Mr. Johnson and Charles I. or James II, but Mr. Williams has apparently very little idea in what it consists. The President is like the Stuarts in having very loose notions of the nature and functions either of the legislature or of the executive, and in fancying that the latter is the real depository of the sovereignty, even in a constitutional government, the former being rather an adviser than a law-giver. He has set out his opinions, too, in much the same temper and with a similar want of sincerity. But here the parallel ceases. Nothing can be possibly more unlike than the relations of the Stuarts to our country "Chief Magistrate" to the American nation, and nothing but the nervous disorder we have mentioned would have led Mr. Williams to fancy there was any analogy between the two. The details, too, through which the country is passing, is a momentary one, no doubt; but it is not Mr. Johnson's faults and follies which have made it so, and his impeachment or removal would, therefore, not remove any of the real difficulties in the national path. The business of impeaching him is not now and never was a weighty or important business in the eyes of anybody except the small knot of supernaturally illuminated politicians who have taken it in hand.

Whether the North would reap the fruits of its victory in the field, after the fighting was over, has long depended not on what Andrew Johnson did or said, or what Mr. Stevens or Mr. Wade or Mr. Boutwell said or did, or what anybody else said or did, but on the temper and persistence of the Northern people. In every great struggle, whether in war or peace, it is only a small number of master-minds who can take in the whole field and see where the key of the position really lies, and on what combination of circumstances the fortunes of the day will turn. The common run of politicians and soldiers are pretty sure to fasten on some trifling matter of only collateral importance, and see in it, to use the gorgeous balderdash of Mr. Williams, at once a "master-key" and "a centre of gravity," and make a fuss about it in the inverse ratio of the value of their opinions.

We might illustrate this copiously from the chronicles both of the late war and of the last two years, if we had space. One of the most striking examples of the force of this tendency has been what we may call, we hope without offense, the impeachment craze. For a year and a half a number of well-meaning, as well as some ill-meaning persons have been fully persuaded that unless, by hook or by crook, Andrew Johnson could be got out of the Presidential chair, the Republic would be lost, and have been trying, but with a very small measure of success, to win the public vote to their way of thinking. As is usual with a certain class of minds, the more they thought of their scheme, the more important it appeared; and the more important it appeared, the more stupendous a villain Andrew Johnson became. He started before them as simply a very indecent brawler, whose presence in the White House was a national disgrace; no doubt, but who was simply a disgrace—nothing more. As the chase continued he grew into an offender against morality, then a seller of pardons, then a conspirator against the nation, then the preparer of a coup d'etat, and finally General Butler ran him to earth as a common assassin.

But all this was done by dint of hallooing and insinuation. No proofs were forthcoming, and, in order to put a good face on this little defect, it was given out that the proofs were too awful to be laid before the public till the Committee was ready to report, and the members were bound to secrecy under the most solemn sanctions. We have waited with bated breath for the report, and the result has been the lag and now Mr. Williams has opened it and displays its contents with a showman's magnificence. But it turns out, as we have ever and over suggested in these columns, that he has nothing to show that we did not all know already. The secrecy was apparently intended simply to heighten the effect of a rather sorry farce. Two-thirds of the charges are simply offenses for which the only proper punishment is non-recognition and public reprobation.

There could be hardly a better illustration of the diseased condition of Mr. Williams' political sense than the enumeration amongst Mr. Johnson's "high crimes and misdemeanors" of his having vetoed bills he ought to have approved, and having advised Legislatures to pass a constitutional amendment which he ought to have advised them to adopt. Why, if the President might be impeached for offenses of this sort, so might every member of Congress be impeached for voting against any bill which the majority chose to pronounce essential to the national safety, and so might every member who made stump speeches against a constitutional amendment. The President has just as much legal right to veto wrongly as a Senator to vote wrongly, just as much right to argue against a constitutional amendment as a Senator to argue for it. We think Mr. Johnson has been wrong, and perhaps from bad motives, in nearly all his vetoes and in nearly all his recommendations; but if he is to veto when the majority in Congress says he may, and only to recommend what they prescribe, his office becomes a ridiculous sinecure.

Nearly all the charges, too, are old and well worn. The pardoning of the Virginian deserters, if true, was a bad and corrupt act; but bad as it was, and corrupt as it was, it was no worse than other Presidents have done, and than other officials are constantly doing; and though we should like to see Mr. Johnson punished for it, we should not like to see the country convulsed, reconstruction delayed, and the public credit imperiled in order to have it done. The power of impeachment is not lodged in the hands of the House for the purpose of affording striking examples of pure morality, or for striking the lover of pure morality with the spectacle of wicked men brought to grief and discomfiture. It is lodged in their hands, like all their other powers, for the public good, and is to be used or not used, not to meet any theory of abstract right or wrong, but as the public interests may seem to require.

We do not know of any rule of morality which demands that the poor shall be kept suffering, the finances of a great nation deranged, scandal brought on free government, and the whole community convulsed and the machinery of administration almost paralyzed, simply that Andrew Johnson, of Tennessee, may be chastised for being truthfully in speech and demeanor, and for having, after passing thirty years of his life as a prosperous and vigorous man, failed in playing the part of an ungodly Christian statesman. The people to be

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When he removed the generals last summer, we feared, as we said at the time, that he did so for the purpose of putting men in their places who would use their powers to frustrate the Congressional plan of reconstruction. Had this proved true, Mr. Williams would have a charge to make on the strength of which we should be all agreed. But it has not proved true. Nothing very mischievous has followed the removal of the generals. It confirms our bad opinion of the President, and has probably exerted a bad influence on the Southern mind, but impeachment is not a proper means of punishing men for the remote and indirect bad consequences of acts in themselves lawful.

One does not need to possess any very extraordinary amount of wisdom to be able to say that now, as two years ago, no single move in this reconstruction business, no single man, possesses paramount importance. The essential thing is that the Northern people be kept earnest, persistent, high-minded, and satisfied with the Republican party. If for any reason it is driven or seduced into taking the power away from the Republican party, we shall fear the worst for the future. The freedmen will be endangered, the public credit will be endangered, the national honor, and even the memory of the dead, will be endangered. Every consideration, high and low, makes it desirable that the country be not distracted with the present holders of power. It is for this reason that we have, during the last two years, declaimed incessantly, and at constant risk of being misunderstood, against the tendency of Republican leaders in Congress to abuse or waste their influence. When Mr. Stevens was preaching confiscation, gaging the opposition, and hurrying important bills through Congress without debate; when Mr. Boutwell was threatening the Supreme Court with abolition, and excluding the whole Southern bar from practice in the United States Courts; when Mr. Banks was humiliating every sensible man in the country with his Fenian "reports"; and when Messrs. Butler, Ashley & Co. were crying night and day for impeachment, we felt satisfied that though these gentlemen flattered themselves they were striking deadly blows at the enemy, they were in reality alienating their own followers, and that if they kept at their work, though they might succeed in pouring out many vile words against the President, and the Rebels, they would probably end in thoroughly sickening the country of themselves and their performances, and bring the whole process of reconstruction, as the Republican party had planned it, to a stand-still. It must now be confessed those who were of this way of thinking, and they were many, have proved to be not very far wrong. It is not yet too late for the majority in Congress to retrace its steps and turn to serious things.

The work before it is to bring the South back to the Union on the basis of equal rights, and not to punish the President, or provide farms for negroes or remodel the American Government. Even if it were well to do all these things, it cannot do them. Would it not now be well to turn to the essential, and abandon all else? The impeachment scheme has apparently found a fitting grave in Mr. Williams' rhetoric, and it is a striking and significant fact that General Butler, who was sent to Congress with a loud flourish of trumpets for the express purpose of riding this hobby, has already abandoned it and is engaged in the pleasing task of persuading Congress to adopt a course with regard to the public debt which, whatever it might do "to lighten the public burdens," would so thoroughly damn American credit that the public would probably never be troubled with any other burden in the shape of debt, let it want money ever so much, within the next two centuries at least.

General Grant and the War Department.

From the N. Y. Herald. The radical Congressmen at Washington, according to the statement of their organ in this city, are extremely anxious to get General Grant out of the War Department, and are busily employed in hunting up all manner of laws which they hope may have a tendency to cut short his term of office. One act passed in 1863, providing that any head of a bureau appointed by the President in an emergency shall not serve for a longer period than six months, is regarded as applicable to the acting Secretary of War. If this should be found operative in his case, then an act of 1857, providing that no detail shall be made by the President, as Commander-in-Chief, that shall extend beyond the space of six months, is relied upon as terminating General Grant's term of office in the War Department in February next. In the meantime, while the radicals are displaying all their restlessness, jealousy, and annoyance, the army estimates are set down under Grant's admirable administration nearly sixteen million dollars. This amount is saved to the country in a single year by the acting Secretary's system of retrenchment, while the efficiency of the army is increased instead of diminished.

The fact is, General Grant has long been satisfied that the offices of General of the Army and Secretary of War should be united in one person. When he commenced his work of army retrenchment, immediately after Lee's surrender, he found himself suddenly checked by the authority of Stanton, backed by the approval of President Lincoln. It had been the desire of Grant to put the army, without any loss of time, as nearly upon a peace footing as the then condition of the country would warrant. To this end he proceeded rapidly with the work of mustering out the volunteer regiments, cutting down, and disposing of army supplies, and getting rid of a host of volunteer officers who had no commands and whose only

duty consisted of drawing their pay. Quartermasters, commissaries and other empaneled idlers felt the effect of his pruning-knife. But a political pressure was brought to bear upon Stanton and Lincoln, and the work of retrenchment was stopped. As soon as Grant obtained possession of the War Department it was resumed, and the result has been an immediate saving of nearly sixteen million dollars from Stanton's estimates for a single year, and the curtailment of expenditures in every direction in equal proportion.

These practical results will satisfy the people that there is sound sense in Grant's views in relation to the union of the two offices of General of the Army and Secretary of War. The former, as the head of the military of the United States, subject only to the Commander-in-Chief, should not have a political power exercised over him to cripple his plans and interfere with his administration. The General is the proper adviser of the President on all army matters, and should be a member of the Cabinet. Now that such an office has been created, a Secretary of War is no longer necessary. General Grant's course has entirely disposed of all partisan agitation over Stanton's removal, and the best thing Congress can do is to provide for the abolition of the office of Secretary of War, and turn over all the duties of the Department to the General of the Army.

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